

THE NEWS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Disappearance of a Slave.—A man who is supposed to have been the driver of the carriage of the late Governor, has been seen in the city of Charleston.

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A Life of Adventure.

The New Mexican correspondent of the Washington Union gives the following sketch of the life and adventures of Col. James L. Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs for New Mexico:

Col. James L. Collins, superintendent of Indian affairs for New Mexico, came to this country in 1827. When the war with Mexico broke out he was engaged in the trading business in the State of Chihuahua. The Americans, after the news of the battle of Palo Alto, were ordered to leave the city and State of Chihuahua. He came to Santa Fe, and remained here until Colonel Doniphan's regiment of volunteers arrived in the Territory. Colonel Doniphan had been imported by the merchants to halt on the way at a certain point, in order to protect the goods of the traders until they could be driven off to places of security. Colonel Collins saw at once that this movement would give the people of Santa Fe and vicinity time to organize and prepare to defend the city, whereas, if Doniphan would come immediately on, there would be no resistance. He accordingly despatched a letter to Captain Waldo, conveying his views as to the best policy to be pursued. Doniphan acted on his suggestion, and immediately marched into Santa Fe without opposition. Colonel Doniphan then employed Colonel Collins as spy, or guide, for his regiment, and proceeded on to the frontier of Mexico, to join, as soon as possible, Wool's division. Collins always going in advance, with a select party, as scout.

The night previous to the battle of Sacramento Collins was sent on one direction and an old Indian hunter, named Kirk, in another, to reconnoitre, and report if any of the enemy were to be seen. About midnight Collins discovered camp fires; he despatched one of his men to ascertain what it meant. The man returned and reported troops. Collins questioned him closely, and found from his answers that the return was not sufficiently reliable. He proceeded cautiously, himself, to within a distance to see plainly that it was Kirk and his party, who had diverged from the assigned path, and very imprudently camped in the road, and lighted up fires. The scouts thus got together, and Collins leading, went off from the road and camped. About daylight he determined to proceed to a small town in advance of them. Kirk and the men murmured, and expressed a wish to return. Collins made known to them his determination to go alone, if no one was willing to accompany him. This somewhat shamed them, and they all joined him, marched forward, and took possession of the town. After taking some refreshments, Collins and one of his men proceeded to an elevated piece of land, whence they had an extended view of the plains before them. With the assistance of a spy-glass, they discovered at some distance troops issuing from a rancho to the number of about 1,200. Collins instantly set about communicating with Col. Doniphan, after taking the precaution to ride up the stream of Sacramento, close to which they were, about a mile, to find a crossing. This would throw Doniphan's men about one mile above where the Mexicans expected them to approach, and where there would be less difficulty in taking their redoubts. The Mexicans observed this movement, and sent their troops forward to intercept it. Just at this time Maj. Weightman, in command of the artillery, let fly one volley into their ranks, which, taking them by surprise, drove them back in great disorder. Doniphan marched forward to the attack. He had about 800 men—the Mexicans about 3,000. Doniphan sent orders to Capt. Reid, who was in the command of three companies, to charge upon the western redoubt. Reid understood the command to be to charge with his own company alone, and gave orders accordingly, and, with Collins and Maj. Owens, rushed forward, expecting his men to follow. The adjutant observed the misunderstanding, and repeated the original command for the three companies to charge, but Reid did not hear it. Reid, Collins, and Owens rode forward amid a shower of bullets whirling around their heads. Owens fell mortally wounded; Reid's horse was shot from under him, and Collins escaped unhurt. The charge was a failure, on account of the misunderstanding. The fighting continued from 3 o'clock until dark, when Doniphan came out victorious.

After this engagement he proceeded on to the city of Chihuahua, Collins leading the way, which place they took without resistance. Here Doniphan was at a loss to know what further to do, as the time of his service had nearly expired. He was some 800 miles from Taylor's division, and how to get orders to govern his future operations he knew not. In this crisis Collins came forward and volunteered to go through to Saltillo, and communicate with the commanding officer. He selected 13 men and started. They travelled four or five days without meeting any serious impediment. They rode up to an Alcade's house on the 6th day, whom Collins had known, and inquired for food for horse and man. The Alcade came forth, but pretending not to know Collins, answered the inquiry very gruffly in the negative. Every question that was asked him he answered in the same way. Finally, Collins started off, but he proceeded but a short distance when he was called back and told he could be accommodated. The Alcade, who had some eight or ten men with him, changed his tactics and treated the party with remarkable kindness. He did everything to prolong his stay. But Collins kept hurrying up his men, suspecting that there was some trick in the sudden change of manner. Collins finally ordered his men to saddle their mules. The Alcade stepped up to him and told him that he had orders to stop him, and that he could not go. By this time some sixty armed Mexicans had surrounded the house. Collins sternly commanded his men to lead their horses into the road and mount. They did so, the Alcade all the time telling Collins not to go—if he did, violence would follow. Collins told him he was going. The Alcade asked him for his pass. He laid his hand on his gun and responded, "Here is my pass, sir," and mounting his horse he and his men rode slowly off in the face of four times their number of the enemy.

He reached Wool's division, at Buena Vista, 800 miles, in 18 days, encountering various impediments similar to the one here related. An express was despatched to Taylor to receive orders for Doniphan. He was commanded to come on down, and go out by way of New Orleans. Collins and his men started back, and reached Doniphan's command in 18 days after leaving Buena Vista, undergoing many privations and hardships. His arrival was greeted with shouts of joy, as they expected he had been cut off.

He continued with Doniphan in the capacity of scout until the regiment reached Buena Vista. Here he determined to return and meet Gen. Price, of Missouri, who was then on pretty much the same route over which Doniphan had passed. Wool, however, could not listen to it. He told him he desired him to remain with his command, and just to name any sum he pleased for his services. Collins told him money was not a consideration with him in a service of that kind; that if he could be useful, he would stay. Wool expected then to go on to San Louis Potosi, and Collins, knowing well the whole country, Wool wanted the advantage of that knowledge. This move was not made, and Collins, being anxious to return and meet Gen. Price, where he thought he could be of more service, he selected nine men and a negro boy and started on his hazardous journey. Before they had gotten within 100 miles of Chihuahua two of his men deserted. On nearing a small town he rode rapidly ahead of his men, and seeking the Alcade inquired if he could be furnished with food for his men and animals. He received a very pleasant reply in the affirmative. He dismounted, and in less than five minutes he was surrounded by at least three hundred armed Mexicans. Of course, he and his men had no chance of escape, and they were taken prisoners. Collins was taken to Chihuahua. This was in October. He remained in confinement here better than four months, during which time, with young Skinner, a brother-in-law of Senator Polk, of Missouri, whom he found in prison there, he made several attempts to escape, but was defeated in his purpose, until finally, about 8 o'clock one night, in the month of January, 1847, he succeeded, by the assistance of a picket-pin and butcher knife, in cutting a hole through the adobe wall. He was out, but did not know where to go. The friend with whom he had made the arrangement to have his mule ready for him failed to do so, and he strolled about town until 11 o'clock, passing the troops who were looking for him frequently. Finally, the hostler came down to the stable. He approached him, and told him he wanted his mule. The man said he could not give him up; if he did, he would be shot. Collins drew the picket-pin from under his blanket, and, holding a ten-dollar piece in his left hand, said: "Now, sir, if you will let me have my mule, I will give you ten dollars; if you do not I will kill you." The fellow thought the picket-pin was a pistol, and, shaking him an open leaf, opened the stable, and led the mule, and Collins mounted, put spurs to the animal, and, rushing past the picket, was 45 miles from Chihuahua by daylight next morning. Fifty troops were started after him, but by traveling by night and lying by in the day he escaped their pursuit. For five days and nights he subsisted on a loaf of bread. When he travelled he chose the most difficult and dangerous parts of the mountains, and frequently had to lead his mule nearly all night, in order to leave as bad a trail as possible. He came down into the road just in time to meet with a scouting party from Price's company, we were at El Paso, and to escape the Mexican troops, who had passed that night. But when they saw the scouts, not knowing how many there were, they broke back at their best speed.

Collins remained with Gen. Price's command in the same relation that he bore to Col. Doniphan. The Mexicans had fortified Chihuahua after Doniphan took it. Price retook it.

FEMALE INFLUENCE.

Besides the undoubted general influence of a gentle character naturally exerted by the tender sex, there is a special ascendancy gained by some superior minds, which may or may not be beneficial, according to the genius, principles, and character of the individual. From the natural vanity of the sex, great intellectual power becomes dangerous, as not being under sufficient training and regulation. Ordinarily, women are not expected to step out of that domestic sphere, in which they are most fitted to shine, but sometimes they are tormented with another sort of ambition—such as to become authors, or reformers. As such, they are almost sure to adopt a tone of exaggeration and fictional representation, because in the faculty of the imagination is so much more strongly developed than that of the judgment. We know not why that misnomer—"strong-minded" women—has become so popular, unless indeed it be used as ironical, but we regret to see such terms used even in jest towards that sex, for whose dignity and delicacy we should ever hold them in respectful regard. There have, in reality, been strong-minded women in this age, which threaten now to become so weak and fussy, so full of pretension, and so barren of results. Among these we would name Hannah More, whose high character and example are in danger of being forgotten amid the ambitious and pretentious reformers of these times. Of the state of religious knowledge, even among the higher classes, in the days of Hannah More, some idea may be formed from this fact. When Sir Joshua Reynolds had finished his celebrated painting, "Samuel," numerous visitors flocked to see it, and among them several proposed the question, "Who was Samuel?" The manners and morality of the period were to be in keeping with such discredit to ignorance. In short, it was the fashion to be irreverent and immoral. Then arose this excellent lady, not much to denounce, as to instruct. She called no public conventions to reform the manners of the age, but modestly grasped the weapons of truth, and skillfully used them for her great object. Taken at a young age from the quiet coteries of Bristol, and introduced into the gay whirl of London society, she was carried by the witty, the great and the learned, but her keen sense of right and propriety was not blunted, and while the world endeavored to win her to its side, she became in the process more strongly entrenched in her principles. This was the secret of her unalloyed good influence upon her generation. Though the mending of people's hearts, she sought the augmentation of their happiness, and her efforts were crowned with distinguished success. There was no degree of lowliness in the condition of humanity to which she would not patiently stoop for the sake of instructing the ignorant and elevating the degraded. She did not deal in fictitious pictures of woe, nor inflict on the public any history of private, mental or doctrinal aberrations, but addressed herself directly to "the business and bosoms of men." What we want among our American women, who would aim at publicity or really seek to do good, is a more finely balanced character. Not only should the intellectual and the imaginative be better proportioned, but the efforts of the mind should be directed in the channel of real philanthropy. Our revolutionary women were true in high counsel, but amid the sanctities and calamities of home, its solitude and frequent desolation. They girded their husbands and brothers for the arena, and sent them many a token of encouragement in their long and wearisome absences from the hearthstones they loved. If the women of our country would rise in the meekness and majesty of their nature, and resolve that the Union shall be perpetual, the certainty of what we regard as a great probability would at once be sealed and ratified, to the joy of all our friends, and the disappointment of our enemies.—*Journal of Commerce.*

NORTH PENNSYLVANIA WANTS TO BE ANNEXED.—Capt. Kennedy, who was sent to the Red River of the north by the Canadian government, to learn the condition of the people of that region, and to observe the workings of the Hudson's Bay Company, has lately returned, and informs the *Superior Chronicle* that the settlers along the Red River have been very much oppressed and ill-treated by the Hudson's Bay Company, and have made known their case to parliament. They are determined to free themselves from the control of the company, and they look to the Canadian government for assistance. Their first desire is to be annexed to Canada; but, failing in this, they will apply for annexation to the United States. The captain feels very confident that the British government will not renew the charter of the company, but will place it in a vast and fertile domain under the jurisdiction of Canada. While in the settlement, intelligence from England was received to the effect that the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company had represented to the committee of parliament having in consideration the subject of the renewal of the charter, that the settlers of Red River were well satisfied with the course of the company. Indignation meetings were immediately held by the settlers, at each of which strong resolutions were passed, denouncing the course of the company, and denying the representations of their agents.

PEARLS IN ENGLAND.—Pearls, of more or less value, have been found, almost immemorially, in the fresh-water ponds and rivers of England. The producing muscle is sometimes called the "ginga pictoria," from the use of the shell for holding water colors. It is the "ginga margaritifera" of Linnæus. Pennant describes it, in his work on British zoology, and adds that others fed upon this shell fish. Dr. Richard Pultney, in his "General views of the Writings of Linnæus," states that he had made an extraordinary discovery in regard to the production of pearls; that he had discovered the power of causing these muscles, kept in reservoirs, to produce pearls, though the result might not be completed for several years. Dr. Pultney expresses his regrets that the means employed by Linnæus are unknown to us. He also states that Linnæus was munificently rewarded by Government for this discovery. Artificial pearls are made, at present, in any quantity; but the artificial production of natural pearls is certainly to be classed among the "lost arts"—if, indeed, such an art ever existed.

Mrs. Jameson says: "The bread of life is love; the salt of life is work; the sugar of life is poetry; the water of life, faith." Hand us the bread and sugar, never mind the salt.

Why is a printer like a hen? Because he sets aside, hatches out his newspapers, and then lays his type in his case.

A TESTOZAL PONY.—In a pit belonging to Mansfield Grieve, Esq., coal washer, Calmhill, for some weeks past the task of many of the drawers were always found empty when the owners came to use their contents, at what is called "coaling hour," though these flasks were always carefully rolled up in the jackets or coats of the men. From the frequency of these thefts taking place, a feeling of suspicion began to be excited by almost every one against his fellow-worker. The conscious innocence of all the men led them to be equally anxious to discover the guilty party, and have him brought to justice. With this feeling they determined to set a watch on the coats. This was done one day last week. Near the place where the coats were a stable containing a pony called Tom, which was used for drawing the lutes below. After the coats were laid down, and the men had gone to work, the watchers had not long to wait to see who was the thief. Tom stole quietly out of his stable, and went up to the coats. He then gently, with his nose, uncovered a flask from one of the coats. This being done, he seated himself upon his hinder legs, seized the flask between his two fore feet, with his teeth drew the cork, dropped it, and then quaffed the contents, to his evident gratification. The flask being emptied, he replaced it in the coat and pressed it together with his foot, to show that it had not been touched. In this way he drained off the contents of several flasks, and then went to his stable with that cautious mein with which he left it. Tom has since been a general favorite; he may now quaff off as much of the cup that cheers but does not inebriate as he likes. [*Glasgow Paper.*]

SPECULATIONS ON THE FINANCIAL CRASH.—Blessed are those who (like myself) can speculate without fear of losing or expectation of winning. Who have no bank notes in their wallets, nor gold in the banks. Banks may break, but such heed not. They sleep well, and eat hearty breakfasts, (when they can get them.)

In the hour of need, Consols are poor consolation. The Bank directors of Rhode Island and elsewhere are now enacting the part of the Toodles. Hence, they "d—n Thompson!"

Wonderful is the sympathy between Banks and their note holders. When the former suspend, the latter remain in a great state of suspense. Where the funds all go to, is something that even the Tellers cannot tell.